

APPROVED

Human Services Advisory Committee Minutes of March 20, 2013 Meeting

Present: Ethel Mantzaris (YSB), chair; Ron Baker (Member At Large); Dexter Eddy (Housing Authority); Bev Korba (Senior Center); Joan Terry (Comm. on Aging); Kevin Grunwald (Staff)

Absent: Sara Anderson (Advocates for Children); Fred Goetz (Advisory Comm. on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities); Lorraine Kenowski (Member At Large); Victoria Nimirowski (WAIM)

Guests: Lida Bolikur, Matt Hart, Town Manager; Bettejane Karnes, Toni Moran, Town Council Member; Linda Savage

As chair of the Town Council's Personnel Committee Toni Moran explained the position of the committee regarding the three vacancies in the Human Services department. The committee feels this is a good time to look at the structure of the personnel in the department. They are looking for information regarding the client base serviced by each position.

Matt Hart said that all three vacant positions are included in the new budget plus funds are proposed to increase the hours for the transportation coordinator and to restore the Youth Service Bureau's challenge program. One of the main questions to be answered is: do we want to provide counseling services or referral services? He also feels it is important to look at the senior services and adult services positions to see how they can best serve the needs of the community.

Matt circulated a memo that included three questions that will hopefully provide information to help decide how to shape the future of the Human Services department. Each of the representatives on the Advisory Committee was asked to meet with their committees to discuss the questions. A special meeting of this Advisory Committee will be held on April 3 at 2:00 p.m. to present the results of the discussions.

Matt also brought up a request from the Mansfield Nursing and Rehab Center asking that the new van be made available for them to transport patients to medical appointments. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Advisory Committee that it is too early to expand the services beyond the trips currently proposed. Once the Town's needs for the van have been established the MNRC request could be reconsidered.

The minutes of the February 20, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

Highlights – Kevin reported the following activity for the department.

- The FoodShare program continues to be utilized by an increasing number of residents. Several residents of Juniper Hill are picked up by our van to bring them to the distribution site.
- The hours of the transportation coordinator have been increased from 10 to 15 per week to allow time for the coordinator to drive the new van on trips.
- A grant will be submitted asking for funds to renew the program that provides drivers to take residents to medical appointment outside the local area.
- Fixed route trips with the new van began this week. Usage will be reviewed after three months.
- The Town Council approved the submission of a Small Cities grant to request funds for a playground.

Recommendations Regarding this Committee's Future – Kevin circulated a memo written on behalf of our committee regarding our assessment of the continuation of the advisory committee. The recommendations included in the memo were approved with one change. The at-large representative should read *recommended* rather than *required*.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, secretary

Next Meeting
April 3